The genus *Nicotiana* has a *funnel-shaped corolla, with its border somewhat plaited. Stamens inclined; stigma emarginate. Capsule two-celled, two* or *four-valved.* The species *Tabacum*, represented in our plate, has its *leaves ovate-lanceolate, sessile, decurrent; flowers panicled, acute.*

Class *Pentandria*, order *Monogynia.* Natural orders *Luridæ*, Linn. *Solanaceæ*, Juss.

The common Tobacco has a long fibrous root; a stalk five or six feet high, erect, round, hairy, and viscid, branching at top. Leaves sessile, very large, ovate or lanceolate, acuminate, viscid, of a pale green colour. Bractes linear, acute. Flowers forming a panicle on the ends of the stem and branches. Calyx swelling, hairy, glutinous, half as long as the corolla, ending in five acute segments. Corolla funnel-shaped, swelling toward the top, the border expanding, with five acute lobes; the tube of a greenish white, the border red. Filaments inclined to one side, with oblong anthers. Germ ovate, style long and slender, stigma cloven. Capsule ovate, invested with the calyx, two-celled, two-valved, but opening crosswise at top; partition contrary to the valves. Seeds very numerous, small, somewhat reniform, attached to a fleshy receptacle.

It is a remarkable law of the animal economy, that the power of use and habit is capable of reconciling the system to bear with impunity what in its unaccustomed state proves highly deleterious and even fatal. It is a fact that most substances in the Materia Medica lose their effect after the continuance of their use for a certain length of time, so that if we would realize their original operation, we must increase their dose in proportion as the body becomes accustomed and insensible to their stimulus. This is particularly exemplified in the narcotics. Many of these substances, which at first are not only nauseous and disgusting in their sensible qualities, but highly injurious in their influence upon health; are so changed in their effect by habitual use, as to become to those who employ them an innocent and indispensible comfort and a first rate luxury of life.

In its external and sensible properties, there is no plant which has less to recommend it than the common Tobacco. Its taste in the green state is acrid, nauseous and repulsive, and a small quantity taken into the stomach excites violent vomiting, attended with other alarming symptoms. Yet the first person who had courage and patience enough to persevere in its use, until hab-

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